

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a collapsible carton divider ~~composed~~ comprised of a plurality of strips, at least one of which extending longitudinally and another of which extending transversely and being interconnected with one another, each said strip having oppositely facing front and rear walls, oppositely facing upper and lower horizontally extending edges and at least one slot which extends from one said edge toward the other said edge, the improvement wherein said at least one slot ~~terminates short of the mid way point between said edges and~~ is defined by spaced apart side edges having an initial portion which commences at ~~said one~~ said horizontally extending edge and extends generally vertically to an intermediate portion, and which extend further to a terminal portion, said intermediate portion having a substantial length and terminating short of the midway point between said horizontally extending edges, each said strip having a thickness which is greater than the distance which separates the side edges ~~of each said slot in said intermediate portion~~ of said at least one slot but which is less than the distance which separates the side edges of ~~said slot in said terminal portion~~ of said at least one slot, the former said distance being uniform throughout the length of said intermediate portion, the intermediate portion of each said at least one slot of one said strip being in contact with the front

and rear walls of another said strip to which said one strip is connected.

2. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 1 wherein ~~each~~ said at least one slot has a longitudinal axis, the longitudinal axis of ~~each~~ at least one slot in said longitudinally extending strip being aligned with the longitudinal axis of a separate ~~said~~ slot in a said transversely extending strip when said longitudinally and transversely extending strips are interconnected, said slots having aligned axes being separated from one another by a space through which said aligned axes pass.

3. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 1 wherein the side edges ~~of the slot~~ in the initial portion of said at least one slot converge ~~converging~~ toward said intermediate portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 1 wherein the side edges ~~of the slot~~ in the initial portion of said at least one slot are ~~being~~ parallel to one another.

5. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 1 wherein the side edges ~~of the slot~~ in the terminal portion of said at least one slot are ~~being~~ parallel to one another.

6. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 1 wherein the side edges ~~of the slot~~ in the terminal portion of said at least one slot are circular.

7. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 1 wherein the side edges ~~of the slot~~ in the terminal portion of said at least one slot are partly parallel to one another and partly circular.

8. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 1 wherein the side edges ~~of the slot~~ in the initial portion of said at least one slot are spaced apart substantially the same distance as the side edges ~~of the slot~~ in the intermediate portion of said at least one slot.

9. (Currently Amended) In a collapsible carton divider ~~composed~~ comprised of a plurality of strips, at least one of which extending longitudinally and another of which extending transversely and being interconnected with one another, each said strip having oppositely facing front and rear walls, oppositely facing upper and lower horizontally extending edges and at least one slot which extends from one ~~said~~ horizontally extending edge toward the other ~~said~~ horizontally extending edge, the improvement wherein said at least one slot in said transversely extending strip ~~terminates short~~

~~of the mid way point between said edges and~~ is defined by spaced apart edges having an initial portion which commences at ~~said one~~ said horizontally extending edge and extends generally vertically to an intermediate portion, and which extend further to a terminal portion, said intermediate portion having a substantial length and terminating short of the mid way point between said horizontally extending edges, each said strip having a thickness which is greater than the distance which separates the side edges of ~~each~~ said at least one said slot in said intermediate portion but which is less than the distance which separates the side edges ~~of said slot~~ in said terminal portion of said at least one slot, the former said distance being uniform throughout the length of said intermediate portion, the intermediate portion of said at least one slot of said transversely extending strip being in contact with the front and rear walls of one said longitudinally extending strip to which said transversely extending strip is connected.

10. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 9 wherein ~~each~~ said at least one slot in said horizontally extending strip has a longitudinal axis, the longitudinal axis of ~~each~~ said at least one slot in said longitudinally extending strip being aligned with the longitudinal axis of a separate said slot in a said transversely extending strip when said longitudinally and transversely extending strips are interconnected, said slots having

aligned axes being separated from one another by a space through which said aligned axes pass.

11. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 9 wherein the side edges ~~of the slot~~ in the initial portion of said at least one slot converge ~~converging~~ toward said intermediate portion.

12. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 9 wherein the side edges ~~of the slot~~ in the initial portion of said at least one slot are ~~being~~ parallel to one another.

13. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 9 wherein the side edges ~~of the slot~~ in the terminal portion of said at least one slot are ~~being~~ parallel to one another.

14. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 9 wherein the side edges ~~of the slot~~ in the terminal portion of said at least one slot are circular.

15. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 9 wherein the side edges ~~of the slot~~ in the terminal portion of said at least one slot are partly parallel to one another and partly circular.

16. (Currently Amended) The collapsible carton divider of claim 9 wherein the side edges ~~of the slot~~ in the initial portion of said at least one slot are spaced apart substantially the same distance as the side edges of the slot in the intermediate portion.